



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

MAY 22, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: BRIAN FARBER

PHONE: (202) 225-3826

BISHOP ANNOUNCES FUNDS FOR RENEWED FEDERAL INVESTMENT AT GABRESKI

House Approves Over \$500K for Pararescue Facility

Washington, DC-With the future of the 106th Air Rescue Wing no longer in doubt following the Base Realignment Commission's (BRAC) decision to keep this critically important facility open, Congressman Tim Bishop today announced a renewed federal investment at Gabreski Airport. The House of Representatives approved \$502,000 to construct a Pararescue Facility for the unit. The funds were included in the Military Construction Appropriations bill, which was passed by the House on May 19.

"The 106th Air Rescue Wing's core mission is to save lives and a new Pararescue Facility is vital to helping train and plan for rescue operations," Bishop said. "Saving the 106th was just the beginning. We need to work just as hard to make sure they have all the resources needed to carry out this mission."

The new facility will enhance the 106th's pre-mission planning and training capabilities so sorties can be successfully executed without endangering crew-members during high-risk missions. It would ensure that rescue vehicles, clothing, and equipment are stored in a safe environment and are mission-capable. It would also provide secure storage for arms and ammunition, classified equipment and high-cost supplies such as parachutes, climbing gear, and scuba diving equipment.

This new funding raises the total federal investment that Congressman Bishop has secured for the Pararescue Facility to \$2.4 million. The project requires an estimated \$13 million of additional funding.

"The 106th Rescue Wing needs the very best equipment and facilities to do our critical military and civilian life saving missions, combat support missions, and provide for Homeland Defense," Colonel Michael Canders, Commander of the 106th said. "This new Pararescue Facility will further our ability to serve State and Nation."

Closure of the 106th was averted upon conclusion of last year's BRAC process. The 106th's excellent performance record combined with strong community support helped keep the unit open on Long Island. The base is among the largest employers on the East End, employing 1,275 people and contributing an estimated \$100 million of economic activity annually.

Now that Bishop has successfully pushed the funding through the House, it must be included in the Senate bill. A final bill will be then be signed into law by the President.